

High School Credit Courses and Honors Course Requirements Christ the King Catholic School

Middle School Math
Diocese of Richmond

www.richmonddiocese.org/ocs/index.htm

Twenty teachers and or principals from nearly as many schools met to discuss how and to whom Algebra I should be offered at the middle school level. The following areas of agreement were reached:

- ◆ When Algebra I is offered to eighth graders or exceptional seventh graders for high school credit, this course constitutes an honors course, and should have the rigor associated with a high school course. It must be taught by a certified high school Algebra teacher.
- ◆ Students wishing to take Algebra I for high school credit in the middle school must meet the following prerequisites: a minimum score of 85% or higher on Math Terra Nova, 85 % or higher on the end of the year math exam, an acceptable minimum score on an Algebra readiness predictor: 80 percentile on the Orleans Hanna Algebra Prognosis, third edition by Harcourt, or 85 percentile on the Iowa Algebra Aptitude test by Riverside Publishing, fourth edition.
- ◆ Perspective Algebra I students should be asked to sign a form indicating their willingness to engage in a class that is rigorous. Parents and teachers must give their written approval as well.
- ◆ Once enrolled in Algebra I, middle school students must maintain an overall average of a B to stay in the course, and parents and students should sign a letter of agreement to that effect. If a student cannot maintain a low B average, he or she will not be allowed to continue in the class. Teachers and principals must be willing to work closely with the parents to keep them updated on students' progress so that there are no surprises.
- ◆ Students, who maintain the 85 percent average in Algebra I and pass the Diocesan exam, will receive credit for the course and will be placed in the next level math course that the high school offers.

Algebra in the middle school isn't for everyone. The committee agreed that schools should not push students who are not ready, but provide an opportunity for those who are. A thorough knowledge of algebraic concepts together with mastery of math facts and operations are needed for success in all other math and science courses that students will

encounter. High school credit for Algebra should be granted when the student can demonstrate that he or she has the requisite mastery to move forward.

CHRIST THE KING MIDDLE SCHOOL PRE-ALGEBRA POLICY

- ◆ When Pre-algebra is offered to 7th and/or 6th grade students to prepare them for Algebra I, it is an honors course, which will make rigorous demands on the student if she or he is to be successful.
- ◆ Students wishing to take Pre-Algebra in our 7th or 6th grade must meet two out of the following three prerequisites:
 - a. A minimum score of 80% on the mathematics portion of their most recent Terra Nova test
 - b. A minimum score of 85% for the previous year's final math average
 - c. Teacher recommendation
- ◆ Prospective Pre-Algebra students and their parents are asked to sign a commitment form indicating the students willingness to engage in a course this rigorous and the parents' acknowledgement and support of their student in the course. The commitment carries with it a requirement to maintain an overall B average in the course. Any lower grade will be indicative of the need for more work in the fundamentals of general math.

CHRIST THE KING 8TH GRADE SPANISH GUIDELINES

When Spanish I is offered to eighth graders for high school credit it is considered an honors course and should have the rigor associated with a high school course. Prospective Spanish I students should sign a form indicating their willingness to engage in a class that is rigorous. At the end of 8th grade Spanish I, students who pass the Diocesan exam will receive credit for one year of high school Spanish.

Students wishing to take Spanish I for high school credit in 8th grade must meet two out of the following three prerequisites:

- a. A minimum score of 80% on the 8th grade Spanish placement exam
- b. A minimum score of 85% for the previous year's final Spanish average (Buen Viaje 1A textbook)
- c. Teacher recommendation